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EDITORIAL BOARD

## **EDITORIAL**

Enthusiasm, confidence and ready-for-action was on the faces of seminarians and formators alike at the official opening of the seminary year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, 2011. This New Year has seen the admission of 7 freshmen into the great missionary, St. Joseph Freinademetz's Philosophy House. We welcome them and wish them all, a successful and fulfilling formation in Demetz House. We equally wish all continuing postulants, fruitfulness in every aspect of formation, in the years ahead of them.

The resumption of the year was a big blow to Demetz House with the absence of three formators; Fr. Patrick Moroney, SVD, who was taken ill and later upon recovery has been appointed to be a lecturer at the Language Centre at St. Peters, Kwahu-Nkwatia; Fr. John Duah Prempeh, SVD, who has gone for further studies in Rome and Fr. Wladyslaw Madziar, SVD, who has been appointed to be the Rector of our elder brothers in the Common Formation Centre (CFC-Ghana). In fact we almost declared ourselves 'sheep without shepherds' when Providence through the undoubtable care and sensitivity of the Provincial Superior Fr. Thomas D'Mello, SVD and in consultation with his Counselors appointed, Fr. Benjamin Asare, SVD, as the Prefect and Bro. Lambert Azieve, SVD, as the Bursar to join Fr. Joy Panamthanam, SVD, the Praeses,

for the formation work in Demetz House. We are grateful to the Superior and his counselors for these appointments and also ‘elephantly’ thank our new Prefect and Bursar for accepting their appointments. We hope the richness they will be contributing to our lives shall in equal measure affect theirs.

We want to welcome Fr. Patrick Moroney, SVD back from his home province from where he sought medical attention. We are grateful for the efforts he and Fr. Wladyslaw Madziar, SVD made to enhance formation in Demetz House and wish them grace and good health in their new appointments. We equally say a big thank you to Fr. John Prempeh, SVD for his contribution to the house and we wish him well in his studies. We also delightfully thank all who contributed with their technical know-how and funds towards the on- going renovation work in the House. We highly appreciate Fr. Joy’s instrumentality to this regard and indeed the courage and zeal he exhibited at a time when personnel for the formation work in Demetz House was inadequate. We thank him and pray him to keep up the good work.

May this yuletide be a season of forgiveness, healing, peace and reconciliation for us all, as the new born King grants us continual justification and holistic sanctification. May the New Year be another fresh turning point in our lives, to open our hearts to the Sun of Justice so that He may reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people.

**Theodore Afanyedey Atsu.**  
Philosophy Three

**ORIENTATION FOR 2011/2012 FRESHMEN**

On July 14<sup>th</sup> this year, freshmen of the 2011/2012 formation year arrived in Tamale. Due to renovation works going on in the St. Joseph Freinademetz House of Philosophy, they stayed at

the Common Formation Centre (CFC) for 24 days. They were welcomed by Fr. Cyprian Kuupol, SVD and were later on joined by Fr. John Asiedu, SVD.



2011/2012 FRESMEN

Orientation began at the CFC on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, with the Vocations Director, Bro. McDaniel Acquaaah, SVD as the resource person. He spoke to the freshmen on various aspects of the Family Gram after which the freshmen were given the opportunity to delve into their families and friends to identify those who in a way or the other had made impact in their lives.

Liturgy as a public worship in which God is glorified and people are sanctified was introduced by Fr. Cyprian Kuupol, SVD. The freshmen were made to understand how rich the liturgy of the Holy Catholic Church is and how it should be upheld.

Rev. Fr. Kofi Ron Lang, SVD exposed some of the challenges freshmen may encounter in the course of their formation and how they could withstand them. Fr. Wladyslaw Madzier, SVD also touched on the distinctive dimension of the Religious Life and the Missionary Priesthood.

Fr. Joseph Addai, SVD also gave an inspiring exposure of the characteristics of our contemporary culture and society and their ensuing challenges to the Priesthood.

The freshmen moved from the CFC to the St. Joseph Freinademetz House of Philosophy

on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August when the renovation work had been completed. The Praeses of the House, Fr. Joy Pananthanam, SVD welcomed and introduced them to the daily schedule of the house and further gave them a gist on academics in the Seminary in terms of courses and the plan of the semester. Fr. John Asiedu, SVD introduced the freshmen to spiritual direction, how one undergoes spiritual direction and the benefits they could derive from it as seminarians.

The orientation program was crowned with a three day retreat led by Fr. Cyprian Kuupol, SVD, who vividly and critically enlightened the freshmen on how they should stay focused, learn from their past lives and not make their past experiences cripple them.

At the end of the orientation program, the freshmen expressed their sincere gratitude to God for His guidance and how far He had brought them. They also expressed their profound appreciation to the formators who helped during the orientation and most especially to the Vocation Director who unremittingly worked day and night for their admission into the Seminary. The freshmen continually pray for all and sundry and ask God's guidance for all.

**Baffoe Clement**  
Philosophy One.

### **THE COMMUNICATIVE PERSON**

Every human being is born into a society which makes use of language, symbols and gestures to communicate, in order to build and ensure interrelationships. It is thus important for every individual as a member of the human family to develop the awareness of effective communication. This among other reasons motivated our formators to organize an input themed "The Communicative Person" for us the postulants from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2011. The input was led by Rev. Fr. Michael Heap, M.Afr.

The input delivered in three sessions, focused first of all on communication in general. To

this regard, Fr. Heap did not mince words on the fact that *listening* is the most essential tool to effective communication aside eye contact, body language, facial expression among others. The visible fact that humans have two ears and a mouth attests to the fact that one needs to listen as much as one speaks. Listening is, as he further explained, a complex skill which involves hearing, understanding and responding.

The second session focused on sexuality as a means of communication. According to Father, different sexual tendencies are proposed currently; heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality and asexuality. Since humans are sexual beings, many reasons are given thus for the act of sexual intercourse. From group discussions it was realized that, among the best of reasons for engaging in sexual intercourse will be a consensus dialogue expressing mutual self-giving of a man and a woman. This gift of the self is highly valued and appreciated in marriage. He then explained that celibacy is a personal discerned choice of giving up marriage to seek a very intimate relationship with God. Enlightening was his explanation of chastity which he referred to as one's commitment to his/her vocation. This means that the married also need to be chaste.

The concluding session concentrated on the community person. Though individuals living together to strive for a common goal can insure many benefits, it can equally produce numerous challenges for members. By discussion it was realized that members of a community need to be tolerant, objective in discussions and also respect one another in order to ensure smooth and healthy communal life.

This input has been very beneficial as it has really exposed issues which one often takes for granted. One such awareness is respect for the other by listening. In simple words listen and you shall be listened to. The urge to intensely and critically discern more ones vocation and cultivate determination and focus to this regard has greatly been aroused.

We would like to say thank you to Fr. Heap for taking us through this input and wish him fulfillment in all his endeavors. We also appreciate our formators' efforts to forming us to the best quality. Thanks also to all who contribute variedly to our formation. May the Good Lord be good to you all.

**Andrews Amehey.**  
Philosophy Two

**EASTER DONATION**



As part of Lenten practices in the House, the Demetz community observed a period of fast and mobilized a substantial sum of money to support less privileged school children in Kanfehiyili a village near St. Joseph Freinademetz House of Philosophy.

To make Easter meaningful to the children some postulants were sent to interact with the children beforehand in order to identify their basic needs. Some of their pressing needs among others included; school uniforms and writing materials such as exercise books, slates, pens and pencils.

After a five week's fast from certain delicacies in the house, the community was to purchase 11 yards of cloths for school uniforms, 300 pieces of exercise books, two and a half packs of pen, a pack of maker and a pack of sharpener. The rest were 2 packs of eraser, 10 boxes of coloured chalk, 100 pieces of slates, 20 pieces of manila cards, a football and an inflator, towels and washing bowls.



The donation was made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2011 by the entire postulant body with Fr. Wladyslaw Madzier, SVD the bursar of the house. Present during the donation were representatives of the School Management Committee (SMC), Parent Teacher Association (PTA), teachers and pupils.



SOME POSTULANTS WITH PUPILS AND TEACHERS

There was joy as the pupils together with their teachers expressed their profound excitement and gladness at the kind gesture. The headmistress Mrs. Madina Alhassan on behalf of the SMC, PTA, teachers and pupils, expressed gratitude to the community for the great generosity.

**Vincent Amuzu-Asafo**  
Philosophy Two.

**SABOBA CATHOLIC YOUTH VISITS DEMETZ HOUSE**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2011, the youth of the St. Charles Lwanga Catholic Church led by their parish youth chaplain, Fr. Rodriguez Sunil, SVD paid a visit to our house. On their arrival, there was a brief period of self introduction. This was done with much enthusiasm as all were eager to know one another.

During the visit, lots of activities took place including, the touring of various parts of the house, a volleyball competition and a moment of interaction.

On the tour, the atmosphere of the house was filled with much joy, as the visitors were taken round the house beginning from the library to the chapel, the piggery, the computer room and other places of interest in the house. The visitors took their time to observe everything critically. Based on their observations, they asked very important questions pertaining to the house and our activities in general. Immediately after the tour there was a crunch volleyball match between us and the visitors. At the onset of the match we had a tough time matching the visitors ‘boot to boot’ as they took an unimaginable lead, but gradually we warmed up into the game. The match ended 2-1 in favour of Demetz House.



Right after the game, we had lunch with the visitors, during which we shared with them our experiences in the house. During this period a section of the youth expressed their desire to join the society in the near future and this was laudably welcomed with applause.

At the end of the programme, the President of the Saboba Catholic youth expressed their gladness at the interaction. He said they actually wanted to know where the SVD priests they have been seeing around were emanating from and indeed their curiosity has been satisfied. He also expressed his profound gratitude on behalf of the entire group for the manner in which they were received. He finally encouraged postulants to continue to persevere in the life they have chosen.

The entire programme was successful and refreshing as it was an opportunity to release some stress which had accumulated during the week due to serious academic and formative work. We really appreciate this visit and urge anyone or group who will like to visit that our doors are always open.

**Nordor Courage**  
Philosophy One

### **Christmas: the celebration of Incarnate Love**

Recently a friend sent me a mail with a story. The story is about a soldier who went to war. At the end of the war and when he was about to go home he phoned his parents and told them he was coming home but with a friend who had no place to go. Enthusiastically, the parents said fine, come with him, we are ready to receive him. Then their son said, wait a minute, there is something you need to know about my friend. He went on and said this man in the course of the war lost an arm and a leg.

Immediately they retorted don't bring him else he will be a terrible burden to us. He tried all he could to convince his parents to accept his friend but to no avail. Out of anger and frustration he hanged-up. The parents heard nothing from him. Few days later, the parents received a message from the police that their son fell from a storey building and died and that the

body has been brought and deposited at the military hospital morgue, he committed suicide. The grieve-stricken parents went to the morgue to see their son and to their utter dismay their son had only one arm and a leg.

Christmas is a day, a feast on which Christians commemorate the birth of Christ, saviour and redeemer of mankind. Christmas season is a period in which Christians intensify their love for all people of good will. It is a time that Christians radiate more the love of God to all people, for God loves the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him will not die but have life and have it to the full.

Unfortunately, many Christians are like the parents in the above story in many ways. They find it easy to love those who are looking good, fun to be with, those who would be servants to them, people who match their class and so forth. Many a time these Christians do not like people who in convenient them in their comfort zones, they stay away from people who are sick especially the bed ridden. They would like to be with the healthy, beautiful, handsome and smart.

Jesus comes to us in the person of a person with one arm and a leg. He comes to us in the poor and the marginalized, the migrants in search of refuge, the young in search of meaning and the aged in search of love and care. At this Christmas season let us do more in our efforts to accept them as they are, let us endeavour to show them quality love and be more understanding of those who are different from us and receive them as God's only begotten children to us in love for in them the Incarnate Word is born. Let us be extra attentive to Christ's words: whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do it to me and for me.

**Fr. Asare Benjamin**  
 Prefect, Demetz House

**PROFILE OF 2011/2012 FRESHMEN**

NAME: **Baffoe Clement**  
 HOMETOWN/REGION: Kranka, Brong Ahafo  
 PARISH/DIOCESE: St. Arnold Janssen Parish, Kranka, Techiman  
 SCHOOLS ATTENDED: St James Seminary and Senior High School, Sunyani

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NAME: **Teye Abraham Mario**

HOMETOWN/REGION: Odumasi Krobo, Eastern Region

PARISH/DIOCESE: St. Augustine Parish, Ashaiman, Accra

SCHOOLS ATTENDED: St. Martins Senior High School, Nsawam

EMAIL: mariogodservant@yahoo.com

NAME: **McCarthy Charles Simon**

HOMETOWN/REGION: Vakpo, Volta

PARISH/DIOCESE: St. Ann Parish, Teshie, Accra

SCHOOLS ATTENDED: Vakpo Senior High School, International College of Engineering, Teshie-Nungua

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NAME: **Gozo Edward**

HOMETOWN/REGION: Saltpond, Central

PARISH/DIOCESE: St. Thomas Aquinas, Legon, Accra

SCHOOLS ATTENDED: St. Martins Senior High School, Nsawam, Accra polytechnic

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NAME: **Koh Constancio**

HOMETOWN/REGION: Jirapa-Duori

PARISH/DIOCESE: St. Joseph Parish, Jirapa, Wa

SCHOOLS ATTENDED: Lawra Senior High School, Tumu College of Education

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NAME: **Okletey Edward Teye**

HOMETOWN/REGION: Agomanya, Odumasi-Krobo, Eastern

PARISH/DIOCESE: Holy Trinity Parish, Agomanya, Koforidua

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EMAIL: ediokleta@yahoo.com

NAME: **Nordor Courage**

HOMETOWN/REGION: Blekusu, Keta, Volta

PARISH/DIOCESE: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Ho, Ho

SCHOOLS ATTENDED: Mawuli Senior High School, Ho

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